Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES AND LITERATURE

BIOLOGY

The Reception of the Mutation Theory.— When the first Lieferung of "Die Mutationstheorie" appeared in 1901 a frequent question was whether the work would be made available for a larger audience by the preparation of an English translation. That the interest of Americans in this subject is very real was soon evidenced by an invitation extended to Professor de Vries to deliver a series of lectures at the University of California. A second edition of the thick volume containing these published lectures was necessary in a few months. Besides a French translation of the American lectures we now welcome an attractive German edition by Klebahn.[1]

Species and Varieties was reviewed in the pages of this journal (Am. Nat. **39**: 747–751, 1905) and it seems unnecessary to discuss the scope or contents of the work. The translator had the benefit of the corrections prepared by Professor de Vries so that the translation is comparable with the second American edition. An especially commendable feature of the present volume is a fine series of over fifty illustrations. These are drawn in part from the larger work of the author, in part from his unpublished drawings or photographs, and in part from living material or other sources.

It must be gratifying to all serious students of evolution to see the widespread interest in these works. Whether or not they admit the general applicability of de Vries's theory, they must at least realize that after long years of marking time students of evolution have at last begun to march. No one should scorn the results of comparative studies, but their limitations should always be kept clearly in mind. The spirit of experimental work is in the air and let us hope that there will be no turning back because of difficulties encountered in the way. Just here a word of warning may not be out of place. In experimental physiology and morphology it is considered essential that the factors involved and the results secured be quantitatively expressed. In ecology and evolution the importance of quantitative methods is just as great. While de Vries was making the now celebrated experiments upon which his theory is based Pearson and his associates were developing the methods of quantitative investigation in variation and heredity. It will be unfortunate indeed if present day workers neglect this new and powerful instrument of research. But with a proper combination of experimental and biometric methods it should be possible to gain a very precise knowledge of the processes involved in species formation.

---

[1] deVries, H. Arten und Varietäten und ihre Entstehung durch Mutation. Ins Deutche übertragen von H. Klebahn. Berlin. Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1906. Q. xii + 530 pp.

J. A. HARRIS.

A Monument to Theodor Schwann.— Theodor Schwann was born at Neuss on the Rhine, December 7, 1810. On the centennial of that date it is proposed to unveil a monument to his memory in his native town. A considerable sum is already in hand and a committee representing all countries has issued an appeal for subscriptions for the memorial. As is well known, he with Schleiden, placed the cell-theory on a substantial basis sixty-five years ago; while his later work was almost equally valuable though not so startling in character. He became an authority on fermentation, decomposition, digestion and spontaneous generation, and, not least, was the discoverer of pepsin. A monument to his associate has been erected in Jena while his master Johannus Müller has a bronze memorial in his native town, Coblenz. Contributions may be sent direct to the 'Städtische Sparkasse, Neuss am Rhein, Germany' marked 'Schwanndenkmal' or probably to the American members of the Committee, Prof. C. S. Minot of Boston and Prof. R. Ramsay Wright of Toronto.

Fitch's Basis of Mind and Morals.[1] — This book is a brief exposition of the principles of evolution as stated by Darwin and Spencer, together with a discussion of the evolution of mind and of the natural code of ethics. The point of view of the book is phenomenalistic; the style is simple, clear and direct. For those who have thought seriously about the problems of evolution the work has little value; for those who wish to be stimulated to such thought it may prove profitable.

The author contends that there should be a natural code of ethics. He does not attempt to construct such a code, but, instead states that it should be the result of man's knowledge of natural causes and

---

[1] Fitch, M. H. The Physical Basis of Mind and Morals. Chicago, Charles H. Kerr and Company. 1906. 266 pp.